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Winkler, Carl Gottlieb Theodor
Lady Termagant

or

Strudel-Köpfchen.

Translated from the German

by

M. P. Yung,

L. P.

Leipzig. 1820.

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[Faint handwritten notes at bottom]

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WYBRANE DZIAŁALNOŚCI

To
Henry William Campe
Esqr.

61

THE

Honoured Sir!

The superior taste you daily display in all arts and sciences, and the very estimable character, you bear for your affability and hospitality to strangers, induced me to take the liberty of dedicating YOU this little translation, which, tho' without the least claim to merit, may serve

as a testimony of the great respect, with which I have the honor of subscribing myself

Your

most obedient

and

very humble servant

M. P. Yung.

Lady Termagant

or

Strudel = Köpfchen.

Personages.

Major Lamb.

Angelica, his wife.

Captain Spitfire, her brother.

John, an old servant of the Major.

Betzy, his wife.

A stable boy.

The stage represents a large room most elegantly furnished. On the right is a chimney, and upon the mantleshef are books and flower pots. On one side hangs a bell line, and on the other lies a guitar upon a chair. A litte farther is a toilet, which is open, but has one lock'd drawer, containing a comb and a lady's portrait and upon the toilet is a little bell. On the left stands a harpsichord with music books on it, and a little farther is a table with drawing instruments and a tambour frame upon a chair.

The whole transaction is upon the major's estate.

Scene I.

JOHN and BETZY putting the room in order.

John (looking at his watch). Lack a day! what can be the matter? The clock has already struck eleven, and our young married people have not yet made their appearance.

Betzy. Don't you know, that in the summer the nights are so short, that to have a good rest, it requires to borrow a few hours of the day; besides consider —

John. It is true dame; but what do you think of our young master and mistress? Are they not a lovely couple?

Betzy. Aye so they are John! Our master is a very nice man and the very picture of his father our late master.

John. And the young lady lack a day! what do you say of her? she has such a slender waist, that I could grasp her round

A

with my hand; every thing is so nice and so neat about her; her little trampling foot, her great black eyes, and her sly look. I tell you this dame, her looks sometimes penetrate my very heart, and sometimes I do not know, what to do —

Betzy. All very true John, but let me tell you, she has too much spunk in her, and what more she is as hot as pepper. Did you not observe, how she treated the lady of honour, who came strait from the imperial court. The devil take me, if she did not give her a confounded slap in the face.

John. Poh! Poh! You always make things worse, than they really are. And what then? if she had made use of her pretty little hands (flourishing with his hand). Those ladies of honour, when coming from court, are some times cursedly saucy — Consider! our Lady is young and our master so sensible, that —

Betzy. You think I am mistaken, but, but, —

John. You are sure of always having a but in the way. Think rather on the brilliant nuptials we had yesterday. Lack a day! how the young fellows brushed themselves up. It was indeed a pleasure to look at them; and did you observe how our chaplain exerted himself in his sermon, and how finely he talk'd away?

Betzy. Yes I did John; but tho' I did not rightly understand him, yet for my life and soul I could not forbear weeping.

John. It put me in mind of our own wedding day. Do You know dame, that on the first of April next we shall have been man and wife 35 years.

Betzy. Goodness me! how time slips away.

John. Do you recollect all the particulars of that day?

Betzy. To be sure I do John! for it seems now to me, as if I saw you stand before me in your fine wedding dress.

John. And didn't I cut a fine dash? Do you remember, when I came upto you,

with my hat under my arm, a beautiful nosegay before me, scraped a bow, took you by the hand, and led you up to dance a round about —

Betzy. I do indeed John, and I can assure you, that my heart then beat in such a manner, that I thought, it would have jump'd out of my mouth.

John. What do you think of me then? By the living jingo (putting his hand to his breast) I really think, it beats now. Feel only dame.

Betzy. What a cursed old fool! such things are more proper for our young people than for us. Bless me! what am I about. I stand here listening to your nonsenses, whilst I got a thousand things to do. You know, that the young lady sent her maid away, and that our master desired me to supply her place, and where I am to begin first I really do not know.

John. Lack a day! here comes our master with his brother in law Captain Spitfire.

Betty. Ah! what a handsome man the captain is, dear me! I could love him dearly.

John. Take care dame! don't prove faithless in your old days.

Scene II.

The former. The MAJOR and the CAPTAIN.

Major. Good morning to you good people.

Both. Your humble servant gentlemen.

Major. Well old man, you have been very busy yesterday, and had much trouble on account of our wedding.

John. No trouble at all your honour! we shall never find any trouble in waiting on you.

Major. Whilst you have been so attentive, and so careful, I have also thought on you, and to reward you for your care and past services, I settled an annuity upon you both for life.

Betzy. Please your honour! how happy shall we be to be allowed to remain with you.

Major. Brother! here are two worthy people. They are old acquaintances of mine, who are dear to me, for I have been brought up by them. He was the confidential servant of my father, and she my mother's maid, and both treated me like their own child. —

Betzy (to the captain). Yes your honour! who would suppose, when looking at this tall, handsome gentleman, that I carried him about upon my arms. Do you remember it Sir! (to the captain) how I carried, tugged, and tossed you about. You were little then, but yet so genteel and so good, that I could not avoid loving you —

John. Aye! so he was, and I see him now before me in his military jacket, and little sword on his side.

Major. Go old people! go, and do not work so hard, indulge yourselves, for you want rest.

Betzy. Please your honour! when there is any thing to be done for you, we shall always find strength enough to do it.

John. Come along dame! don't let us be too troublesome to our noble master. Make a fine courtesy and let us be gone.

Betzy (Makes a very low courtesy). You are in the right John, gentlemen! Your very humble servant.

Major. Farewell Betzy; farewell.

Betzy. Dear me! what a handsome man Captain Spitfire is.

Scene III.

THE MAJOR and the CAPTAIN.

Captain. Well brother! I suppose you are now completely happy.

Major. So I am brother, and according to my opinion, I can not think that any person can be happier than I am just now. I have a young, beautiful creature

for wife, true friends and a good property of my own, so that I shall spend my days in love and friendship.

Captain. I am glad to hear it, and wish you joy from all my heart. You must certainly have observed, how glad I was, when I heard you say, that you intended to marry my sister.

Major. I did brother, and I assure you, that I was not a little pleased to find you so free and so candid in telling me your sentiments.

Captain. It was no more than my duty required, when I informed you of my sister's good and bad qualities, but as your love was so violent, your marriage so precipitate, I suppose you had no time to reflect upon the latter part, and to be sure, when one is in love over head and ears — and had I not been so candid, you could one day or other have call'd upon me, saying, brother, I am very unhappy. Your sister is a little fury an impatient and choleric toad. —

Major. I think you go rather too far.

Captain. By no means; what I told you before I tell you now again. My sister Angelica has had a very bad education. Being an orphan from her early days, she was given up to the care of an old aunt, who adored her and let her have her will in every thing, and even the servants did not dare contradict her, several having been turned away on that account; so that at last she became so impatient and so choleric, that it was impossible to be in her company without being shocked.

Major (smiling). She is of too mild a disposition, and her very looks are proofs of her peaceable mind.

Captain. You are mistaken brother; for she is a little devil, and when her furious fit comes on, she dashes and breaks every thing to pieces. No maid can hold out longer than a week with her. Yesterday we hardly got out of the carriage, when she fell out with Justine, and

sent her away for the most trifling thing in the world, and what do you think it was? because the poor girl trode accidentally upon her little lap dog (the major smiles). I am surprized to see you take all I say so coolly.

Major. Because firstly I think your description too exaggerated, and secondly because I know that brothers are no flatterers.

Captain. And lovers are in general blind.

Major. Setting all joke aside brother! I can assure you, that I have not yet perceived the least sign of her being passionate and choleric, but on the contrary as innocent as a lamb, and as quiet as a dove: —

Captain. All deception brother. On the day before the marriage a woman takes care not to disclose her faults, on the day of the marriage she is so so, but on the day after the marriage. — Ah! dear

friend, how will you scratch your head, when you hear her rush out with —

Major. I see through the whole. Your design is to terrify me, but you are mistaken. You see I am not in the least uneasy, and if she were so termagant as you say, suitable means could be adopted to calm her. Angelica is only 18 years old, her character, as you told me yourself, is unquestionable. She has been indulged in every thing, you say, therefore she is a spoiled child, but after all, what does it signify, she is open artless, good natured, spirited and loves me, and, I am sure, we shall never disagree.

Captain. I have nothing to alledge against her virtue, she has noble sentiments and is the best natured soul in the world; it is only a pity that such a cursed fault. —

Major. A single fault can soon be corrected.

Captain. True! I only fear you'll be obliged to give her a new education,

which will be too difficult a task for you. —

Major. Not at all, for I shall certainly go through it with credit to myself and with honour to her.

Captain. Mentor was not such a good husband by far, as you are, and promise to be.

Major. You talk at random. Does it not behove, that in a good family the most prudent should endeavour to keep the whole house in good order by his advice and good examples.

Captain. True! but what will the people say in the mean while?

Major. Never mind, what they say or may say. Consider, that we are not in town. I had my reasons for having my nuptials celebrated in the country, for here I have Angelica to myself, and more over here she can not be waylaid nor corrupted by bad advisers.

Captain. Nor by bad examples.

Major. Pray brother! do you love your sister?

Captain. What a question!

Major. Then you must assist me in my plan.

Captain. Who? I?

Major. Yes you, for with your assistance, I shall make her to the most patient and mildest creature under the sun.

Captain. That's a hard task, my friend, and a most difficult undertaking, wherein little or no success can be expected.

Major. Here she comes — mum — in a few minues we shall leave her and pay a visit to one of my neighbours, and in going along I shall explain you my project.

Scene IV.

The former. ANGELICA in a neat morning dress.

Angelica. Good morning to you my dear, good morning to you brother.

Major. We were just now speaking of you dear Angelica. Your brother extolled your praise up to the very skies. But tell me my dear little wife, what is the matter with you, for you seem quite displeased.

Angelica. How can it be otherwise, for I am in the greatest distress. Did you not hear, what calamity befell me.

Major. What is it my love? speak.

Angelica. I am without a maid.

Major. Dear me, how so?

Angelica. Being rather in a bad humour last night, I sent Justine away, and do you know, she had the impudence to go away.

Major. Could she do more than obey your orders?

Angelica. No my dear, but this morning I was so angry with myself, that I did not know, what to do. I sent for her back again, but she was gone off.

Major. That's a sad accident.

Angelica. Yet when I consider the matter properly, the loss is of no great consequence, for she was always so sleepy and so slow, that I could not have borne her long about me.

Major. If I am not mistaken, you sent another pretty girl away a few days before we left town.

Angelica. Pray, don't speak about her my dear; for she was too lively and too whimsical for me; in short I never saw a wilder and foolisher girl in all the days of my life.

Major. You will find it a difficult matter to suit yourself with a good one.

Captain. You are in the right brother, for it requires for such an honorable situation a person, who has had a university education.

Angelica. Well said brother! you always speak satyrically of our sex; You cannot live without women, and yet you are always ready to calumniate them. It

is a language I do not like and will not suffer.

Major (kissing her hand). Farewell my love.

Angelica. How! What! are you going out?

Major. Your brother and I intend to pay a few visits.

Angelica. And what visits, if I dare ask; for you are both dressed up, as if you were to be reviewed by the King.

Major. We intend to call upon a few of the principal people in this place to ask them to dine with us to day.

Angelica. For heaven's sake, what shall I do about my toilet?

Major. Be not uneasy my love. We have here an old chamber maid of my mother in the house, who was formerly very clever, and as I foresaw the inconvenience you would be put to, I desired her to wait on you — I shall send her to you in a moment. — Farewell my dear, farewell my love.

Angelica. Farewell my dear, and let it not be long before you return.

Major. We shall be back in no time at all.

Angelica. You know, I can not be long without you my dear! therefore let me see you as soon as possible.

Major (kissing her hand). Adieu my love adieu!

Scene V.

ANGELICA (alone).

Angelica. Now let me consider, what gown I shall put on to day? — My blue gown — no I shall put on my white muslin gown with garlands and flowers. My husband has never seen me in it, and I dare say, he will be enraptured — yes — he will take me for an angel. And what pleasure will it be to him, when I show him my portrait. I only wish to know the most agreeable manner of presenting it to him.

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Scene VI.

ANGELICA — JOHN comes in hastily.

John. I beg your ladyship's pardon, I only come to tell you, that my dame will have the honour of waiting on your ladyship in an instant, and that she is just now putting your ladyship's cloaths in proper order.

Angelica. Very well good man.

John. May I be so bold as to ask your ladyship, how you like this place?

Angelica (sitting before the looking glass putting her hair a little in order), very well.

John. To be sure it is not so agreeable and so pleasant as in town?

Angelica. Have you ever been in town?

John. Yes my lady; I went to town with my late master about the year 1777. We had a very hard winter then. I remember it very well, for I thought I should have perished on the coach box.

Angelica. Ah there is my guitar, who put it there?

John. It was I my lady, I took it out of the case.

Angelica (Running her finger over the strings). How shockingly out of tune, I must tune it immediately. What did you say just now John?

John. I said, that I went to town with my late master. We arrived on the 5th of January (a string breaks *Angelica* makes some motions of discontent) the next morning about this time I met with an accident (an other string breaks, she stamps with her foot on the ground).

Angelica. Is the devil in it?

John. I must tell your ladyship, that as I stood in the street — dear me. I can not recollect the name of it — I heard a terrible noise (the third string breaks).

Angelica. No that's too bad (throws the guitar on the ground).

John. Goodness me said I — I think myself now in the same street.

Angelica. What do you want here?

Take yourself off! Where is your wife? why does she not come? go and fetch her.

Scene VII.

The former, BETZY comes in with a box in her hand containing a white crape gown with a broad red fur below and a bonnet.

John. Only a little patience my lady, here she is already.

Angelica. Already you say — These people are so slow in every thing they do, that it is past bearing, and if I stay here much longer I'll run mad.

John (going up to Betzy). You are in the right dame. Our young lady is too hasty and too passionate.

Angelica. Well good woman! come here — make haste, for I have been waiting for you this long while.

John (in going away). My dame is in the right — she is a little fury.

Scene VIII.

ANGELICA and BETZY.

Betzy (walking slowly). Here I am my lady at your service.

Angelica (running up to *Betzy* aside). O what a charming and elegant extract of chamber maids (loud). Here my dear take this key and open the middle drawer of my toilet, in which you will find my comb. I hope you will be able to put my hair in order.

Betzy. Your hair? I'll comb, twist and frize your hair in such a manner, that it will surprize you and every body (opens the drawer and locks it again).

Angelica. Pray! make haste! my husband will be here presently. (*Betzy* lets the comb fall). How aukward you are.

Betzy. You are too hasty my lady. Here is the key of the drawer (gives it into her hand).

Scene IX.

The former. The MAJOR listening in the corner.

Major (softly) very pretty indeed.

Angelica. I hope you'll be able to dress me.

Betzy. I should think so, my lady, after having been lady's maid 32 years, as I have been. I will not bestow any praise upon my abilities, but you will soon find it out, when you see, how I have already put your gowns in order, for it was shocking to see, how badly they were put together.

Angelica. What? Who order'd you to meddle with my gowns (drawing her gown hastily out of the box). For heaven's sake! what is all that.

Betzy. This is a fur — below, and these are the trimmings.

Angelica. Indeed that's too bad, my whole gown is spoiled.

Betzy. Please to observe my lady, that the last time I was in town, it was

the newest fashion to wear gowns in such a manner, and to tell you the truth, it was the rage to have them thus made. —

Angelica (throws the gown at her). infamous creature! and my pretty bonnet.

Betzy. Please to see, how well I have been trimming it up, it looks beautiful.

Angelica (raving and tearing about). Go along! take yourself out of my sight or I. —

Betzy (aside). Bounteous heaven, what a little devil! She is past bearing! O what a vixen! (going).

Scene X.

ANGELICA. The MAJOR, who during the whole time had been listening and laughing.

Angelica. I am indeed an unfortunate woman. Where are my fine trimmings now? Gracious heaven! That old devil put the trimmings of my gown upon my bonnet.

(she takes the gown, bonnet and the rest of the things tears them, and tramples upon them.

Major. Well done indeed! Here I am again my dear; just like me — exactly like me. O how fortunate how fortunate! just as I wished to have it.

Angelica (seeing him). Are you here already my dear! well and how do you do now; you seem mightily pleased and in a good humour.

Major. Dear Angelica! I am overjoyed, enchanted, enraptured — a broken instrument, wearing apparels torn and trampled upon — just like me — exactly like me.

Angelica (a little perplex'd). What do you mean by that?

Major. I perceive now, my love! that heaven designed us for each other. What sympathy — what an astonishing likeness is there not in our dispositions.

Angelica. How so my dear?

Major. I am just the same as I see you, impatient hot headed choleric, furi-

ous and at times raving mad. I break, tear, and destroy every thing, just like you exactly like you.

Angelica. You are joking my dear!

Major. Not in the least, I assure you; for what I tell you is a real fact, and as I do not wish to dissimulate, I am determined to tell you the whole. First of all you must know, that I have been very ill bred up by my uncle.

Angelica. What do you say? ill bred up.

Major. Cursedly ill. From my infancy I display'd an ungovernable disposition: I abused all my teachers, and as my uncle deified me, he found every thing, I did right and clever, and used frequently to say, that's a sharp lad, he shews already some energy, and will no doubt one day or other be a fine dashing fellow.

Angelica. There is something so very odd in what you say, that I am at a loss, what to think of it.

Major. There is nothing surprizing

in it my love! Consider only, that, as my bad humour was always indulged during my childhood, and increased as I grew up, it became at last intolerably bad. After having formed the resolution of making you to my wife. I could not avoid making some serious reflections about it, saying to myself. What will she think of me, when she begins to be acquainted with my character. She will take me for a monster, and hate me for ever.

Angelica. Not I my dear. —

Major. These reflections were torments to me, therefore consider, how great my joy must have been, when I discover'd, that you had the same fault as I. Now I am sure you will not be angry with me, if you should unfortunately see me in one of those violent fits, which alas! is too often the case. Dear wife! You can not imagine how much easier I am now in my mind and how relieved I am of the anxiety I laboured under,

since I made you an ample confession of my fault.

Angelica. What my dear! are you so violently passionate.

Major. I blow up like gun powder.

Angelica. How strange does it appear to me, for I never observ'd the least symptom of it before our marriage.

Major. How could you my love? I endeavour'd at that time to please you, and you did the same in regard to me.

Angelica. I always took you for so mild and so good natur'd.

Major. You were terribly mistaken, for my eyes are sparkling at the least emotion, the blood in my veins turns scalding hot at the least offence, the least contradiction and I. —

Angelica. That's the same case with me; my heart begins to beat, and I fly into such a passion, that I can neither hear nor see, but it is of a short duration.

Major. Nor does it last long with

me, for I am immediately as calm as a lamb can be.

Angelica. And I am so vexed at it the next minute, particularly, when I have wronged a person. —

Major. And I also; but I have a greater misfortune still, which is that of being apt a few moments afterwards to burst out worse than before. —

Angelica. That's terrible indeed.

Major. How so? Has not every one his faults? We are fortunate enough to have one and the same, and no person can say, that there is any difference between our dispositions. We are indeed properly matched, and a good flow of spirit is generally a sign of a good nature, and as we are to be indulgent towards one another, I do not see, why we should put ourselves to any inconvenience, and if we keck up a little breeze together our reconciliation will be the sweeter for it.

Angelica. Reconciliation? Do you

really believe, that we shall fall out together?

Major. My dear love! You know very well, that anger is an emotion of the mind, and can neither be governed by feelings nor reason. When passion once reaches the brains, one is even apt to commit murder, and for my part I assure you, that in such fits I know neither friends nor foes, but as soon as the paroxism is over, you will see me prostrate at your feet craving forgiveness.

Angelica. That's all very well, but I hope, such reconciliations will not occur often. for. —

Major. By Iupiter! I had nearly forgotten that we have six persons to dine with us to day. Here comes your brother, I leave you together, whilst I make the necessary preparations for dinner. Farewell my love! You can not form an idea of my happiness, since I made you an ample confession of my fault. Adieu my dear! (kissing her hand).

Scene XI.

The former. The CAPTAIN.

Captain (softly to the Major). Well now?

Major (in going). The beginning is fairly made. Let us now finish the business satisfactorily.

Scene XII.

ANGELICA and the CAPTAIN.

Captain. What makes you so pensive and so dejected sister? Is any thing the matter with you? Are you still, uneasy about your chamber maid.

Angelica. No brother, more important matters perplex my mind.

Captain. And what are they dear sister! I am desirous to know them, and why you are so thoughtful.

Angelica. Ah! dear brother, I have great reason to be so.

Captain. Ha, ha, ha, a young married woman; are you. —

Angelica. Leave off, with your jokes for I am in too bad a humour — (a noise is heard, as if tables, chairs, earthen wares, glasses and bottles had been broken).

Captain. By heaven! what is that noise?

Angelica. I hope it is not my husband.

Captain. (A greater noise is heard). I really think they are fighting in the passage.

Angelica. Pray dear brother go and see.

Captain. Be not uneasy dear sister, I'll go and bring you word, what that noise signifies. (goes).

Scene XIII.

ANGELICA (alone).

Angelica. How I tremble. — Good heaven! if it should be my husband. —

He went out just now quite calm — Ah I see it too clearly — what he told me is alas! too true — who would ever have supposed such a temper of so solid and so soft a countenance as that of my husband.

Scene XIV.

ANGELICA. The CAPTAIN (enters displeased).

Angelica. Well dear bother?

Captain. It was your husband.

Angelica. My husband. — Pray what was the matter?

Captain. You must ask him yourself. I found him alone on the field of battle, as red as a turkeycock and his eyes sparkled in such a manner, that I was really terrified. He drove every person out of the house, upset the tables, chairs and broke all the bottles, glasses and porcelain that were in the passage.

Angelica. What! gracious heaven!

my beautiful china the wedding gift of my aunt.

Captain. Every thing is broken to atoms. — Such a conduct is indeed intolerable, and what more unpardonable. I endeavour'd to pacify him, but he answer'd me in such a tone, that —

Angelica. Dear brother! be not angry, for he is at times very passionate, which he told me in confidence, desiring me never to. —

Captain. But let me tell you Angelica, that a man, who is guilty of such an abominable fault, should never marry, for he renders his companion of life as miserable as himself, and I swear to old Styx, that had I known it, I. —

Angelica. Pray dear brother, I hear him come, be quiet, and do not provoke him or. —

Major. (Speaking loud behind the sceneries).

Angelica. For heaven's sake brother! say nothing to him, for in those moments he does not know any body. Hark!

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the regiment. — I must do you justice. You play'd your part admirably well, and I strike my colours to you.

Major. Recollect, that you promised me your assistance.

Captain. Most assuredly.

Scene XVI.

ANGELICA, The MAJOR (sitting at the table drawing a landscape.)

Angelica (opens the door and looks into the room trembling). I must go and see, whether his fury is over or not. — Dear husband are you quiet now?

Major. Yes my love, and how are you?

Angelica. So, so, and what are you doing here?

Major. I am finishing the landscape I had designed for you some time ago. It represents the arbour, in which I saw you for the first time with your aunt. Look at

it, is it like it? do you know that part of the park?

Angelica. Very well indeed — and not to interrupt you, I'll sit down near the chimney, and finish your military band, I promised to embroider for you.

Major. Dear Angelica! since I saw you last, I have been in a terrible passion.

Angelica. I know it my dear, and I thought, I should have died with fright.

Major. Pooh! Pooh! it was nothing.

Angelica. What do you say? nothing.

Major. I cleared the deck at once, and drove all the servants but John and Betzy out of the house.

Angelica. What was the cause of it? You seemed so composed and calm, when you left me, and how in the name of fortune could you fall at once into such a violent passion?

Major. At once you say? Oh you are terribly mistaken. My blood had been boiling for some days past, and as a favorable opportunity presented itself, I gave vent to it,

and to tell you the truth of the matter, I
keck'd up a fine dust. Did you hear it?

Angelica. Goodness me! (aside). He
speaks as if it had been a mere nothing.

Major (laughing). Were you to look into
the passage, you would then be able to form
an exact idea of a field of battle (laughing).

Angelica. Laugh as much as you
please; for my part I do not think it laugh-
able, for I am now shock'd at the very
thought of it.

Major (continues to draw). Dear Angelica!
look, how pleasant this landscape is, there
reigns peace in perfection. Do you know
in what position I shall draw myself? I
shall draw myself amidst a number of blow-
ing roses, admiring the finest of them.

Angelica (rises softly from her tambour frame,
goes softly to her husband, puts her hand on his
shoulder).

Major (turns round and kisses her hand).

Angelica (goes away). I won't disturb
you.

Major. Stay here my dear! and let us enjoy this fine prospect.

Angelica. No Sir, You have been too bad; You broke my beautiful china. —

Major. Pray Madam! no reproofs. Have you not broken your guitar?

Angelica. Yes I did, and I could do it with great right, for it was my own property.

Major. And I can say the same; for I am sure, that when in a passion I broke more than ten violins and as many fiddles, oboes, drums and french horns. —

Angelica. What a havock among the poor instruments.

Major. I should by this time have been a capital musician, if I had not been so passionate, for at the first difficult passage, I throw down the music — desk — tear the notes — and break the instrument to pieces.

Angelica. I must confess, that the fault you and I have is a most abominable one.

Major. If I could not say worse than that, I should not mind it.

Angelica. What else have you to reproach yourself with my dear?

Major. I beg to be excused my love.

Angelica. But I insist upon knowing it.

Major. By and by my love. Let me first of all finish the cascade.

Angelica. Never mind the cascade. Tell me, what is it, for heaven's sake?

Major (rising). What a disagreeable confession will you extort from me. It will only give you a worse opinion of me, than you have already.

Angelica. No my dear, I never had a bad opinion of you and shall never have it, yet tell me, what have you so much at heart?

Major. You know John our old faithful servant.

Angelica. To be sure I do.

Major (aside). I must frighten her. (loud)
Six years ago being in one of those violent

fits I had the misfortune of breaking the poor fellow's arm.

Angelica. To break his arm! that's terrible. I am very passionate, it is true, yet I never did any thing like it, I broke now and then some pieces of furniture, but —

Major. That's easily accounted for. You are a woman, and I am a man, and as there is a proportion in all things, so there is some in this case too. I am stronger than you, and therefore my passion must be more violent than yours. — Alas! when I think on the poor old man, I can not avoid pitying him, and I assure you, that the remembrance of this action will be a torment to me as long as I live.

Angelica. To break the poor man's arm.

Major (after a deep sigh). If I had not done worse. —

Angelica. What do you say? something still worse.

Major. Yes, indeed, for being so

passionate, I was obliged to fight more than ten times and I. —

Angelica. Dear husband! let me never hear of such a thing, for it would cost me my life.

Major. Such things can at times not be avoided, particularly among soldiers, for one crooked word is enough to call honour in question.

Angelica. Banish those sentiments of honour out of your mind, and let us both adopt the means of altering our cholerick disposition.

Major. That's impossible.

Angelica. Do you really suppose that such a fault can not be got the better of.

Major. I do my love, for when the blood is once infected with a bad humour, it is a thousand to one, that it can not be cured.

Angelica. I shall convince you, that you are in the wrong, and that there is nothing easier, and if you will promise to follow my example I promise to make a

perfect cure, and what more, to make you a present for your consent.

Major. A present?

Angelica. Yes a present of my picture, which I had done unknown to you, and which is deemed to be a striking likeness.

Major. What my love? You got your picture drawn, and never favour'd me with a sight of it?

Angelica. Consider my dear, that this is only the second day of our being man and wife, and that every thing must not be given up in one day, and I hope after you got it, you will always wear it near your heart, and when you perceive the least impulse of anger, look at it, and your blood will be cooled, your passion will be oblig'd to give way to more tender feelings, and you will become the most amiable and mildest of men.

Major. Dear Angelica! You enchant me.

Angelica. And how do you like my antidote?

Major. Capitally! charmingly! and that you might not be without the like antidote, I shall get my portrait immediately drawn.

Angelica. You? well the retort is fair, I understand you.

Major. Pray let me have your picture, for I long to see it.

Angelica. You shall have it instantly, it is in one of the drawers of my toilet. — But where is the key? (searches about) where have I put it.

Major. You forgot, where you put it (aside) now for it.

Angelica. Have you seen a key lie any where about the room.

Major. No my love.

Angelica (searching) throws the books down, that lay upon the mantleshef. Can't you help me to look after it. You stand there, as if you were glued on.

Major. Give yourself no further trouble, for you have certainly lost it.

Angelica. It can not be lost, for I had it in my hand, when you were talking of the portrait. — No! no! I recollect it; Betzy must have it. Yes! she must, (calling) Betzy! Betzy! (to the Major). Be not impatient (calling louder). Betzy! Betzy! (she takes the little bell off the toilet, rings and calls). Betzy! Betzy! (she stamps with her feet on the ground, and at the same time pulls the bell line, which hangs near the mantle shelf. Be not impatient my dear husband.

Major (sings). O what a charming thing is a battle.

Scene XVII.

The former. BETZY (comes in slowly).

Betzy. Here I am my lady.

Angelica. Give me the key to my toilet, make haste.

Betzy. What key my lady?

Angelica. Good heaven! the key I gave you this morning.

Betzy. I gave it you back again my lady.

Angelica. No such a thing.

Betzy. Yes my lady.

Angelica. How can you look into my face, and say so.

Betzy (begins to be angry). Yes my lady, I gave it into your own hand.

Angelica. That's too daring.

Betzy. You stood there, where you stand now.

Angelica. That old devil will make me mad.

Betzy. Yes my lady, I recollect it, you were at that time in a passion.

Angelica. O you impudent creature — my dear husband — — to tell me so 'plump into my face! — It is too bad, she must be gone, for I will not put up with such an insult, I am determined.

Major (aside) now it is my turn (loud)
stop a little (calls) John! John!

Scene XVIII.

The former. JOHN (enters).

John. Please your honour.

Major. Have you found the key of
my wife's toilet?

John. I have not your honour.

Major (to Betzy). If so you must
have it.

Angelica. Of course.

Betzy (in a passion). If your ladyship
were to wear pockets like other people,
such things would never happen.

Angelica. Go out of my house you
impudent hussy and never let me see your
face again.

John. Goodness me! what a noise
about a miserable key.

Major (seeming to be in a passion). What
a noise you say, you impudent fellow!

How dare you reprimand my wife; take yourself off, as fast as your legs can carry you, or I.

John. Pray your honour.

Major. Be gone I say once more or you shall experience the effects of my fury.

Betsy. Good heaven! what shall we do now?

Major (aside). I am sorry to hurt their feelings. (aloud) To insist upon my wife being in the wrong. — Are you not gone yet. — I tell you now for the last time. — Be gone! or you shall walk out of the window or up the chimney.

John. Come let us be gone; Heaven bless our noble master! (going).

Scene XIX.

ANGELICA. — The MAJOR.

Major (pretending to be in a great passion)
How people abuse the goodness one has
for them.

Angelica. And how bad they are in
return.

Major. Uncouth, insolent and im-
pertinent.

Angelica. And such liars. In short
servants are always the cause of domestic
disturbances.

Major. Thanks to our stars, we got
at present a clear house, and I hope we
shall soon be quite comfortable, since we
have not a servant left.

Angelica. You are in the right my
dear; for we shall be so comfortable now,
since we have no such vermin about us.

Major. All our falling out has hither-
to been about trifles — I think we might
easily break ourselves of that fault, if we
were to go properly to work.

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Angelica. I assure you, my dear, that such a thing shall not happen to me any more. Whenever I look at you I, feel myself, I do not know how — Pray, has it not the same effect upon you.

Major. Yes indeed my dear, and to tell you the truth, I begin to be quite displeased at our foolish and ridiculous passion.

Angelica. I tell you this my love. Let us from this moment on form a resolution of altering our disposition, for we become hateful to one another, and as to you, you look horribly bad, when you are in a passion, and I declare you are not the same person.

Major. That is easily accounted for; Rage and fury alter every feature in the face, and one's eyes are ready to burst out of their sockets. — What you have seen, is nothing to what I am, when. —

Angelica. Dear husband; do not terrify me, pray let us be determined to be better.

Major. With all my heart. Let us be guarded against rancour, impatience and provocations.

Angelica. Will you join me in this resolution.

Major. Most undoubtedly my love.

Angelica. Well! Let us see, who will be the first to deviate from it. As for my part, there is not the least apprehension.

Major. Dear wife! how happy am I to find so much fortitude in you. It will be attended with much trouble on my side and unless I am supported by you and encouraged by your good examples, I shall certainly not be able to fulfil my promise.

Angelica. Be not desponding, but shew your manly courage, and you will come off victorious. —

Major. Let us then drop the subject, and have a little enlivening music.

Angelica. With all my heart dear husband. You know music is enchanting and creating the noblest sensations.

Major. Here I have a new song out of the last musical opera called domestic happiness. The words will be suitable to us both, and if you will sing it, I shall accompany you on the piano-forte.

Angelica (sings). How happy must that couple be,
When love has crown'd their union.

Major (stops) that's rather too fast my dear.

Angelica (continues). They live in pleasure
For love and peace dwell in their mansion.

Major. You sing the last passage out of time.

Angelica. Do you think so? well let us begin again.

Major. Mind; where you sing love and peace.

Angelica (displeased). How happy must that couple be
When love has crown'd their union.

Major. Now mind.

Angelica. They live in pleasure from
sorrow free.

(the Major holds up his finger).

For love and peace dwell in their man-
sion.

Major. How cursedly out of tune.

Angelica. No Sir, I do not sing out
of tune, it is you, who do not accompany
me well.

Major. If so let us try it again.

Angelica (sings). How happy must that
couple be.

When love has crown'd their union.

Major. Too fast, and out of time.

Angelica (seems angry, rolls and twists the
paper about with her hands — sings).

They live in pleasure from sorrow free.

For love and peace dwell in their man-
sion.

Major. Stop my dear, this time you
sung worse than before.

Angelica. (Throws the music paper at his head).
Play and sing yourself.

Major. Charming! O, what a fine teacher, who would not follow such an exemplary conduct.

Angelica (in a softer tone). Be not angry my dear. It is true, I promised you never to be in a passion again, but I meant without reason (taking her handkerchief out.)

Major. So I find dear Angelica; but pray! what have you got tied on your handkerchief.

Angelica (looks). Good heaven! it is the key I had lost.

Major. What? the key you wanted of Betzy, and for which you abused her so.

Angelica. The very same my love. —

Major. Very pretty Madam, and now we have sent her and her husband away. What amends can you make them for having treated them so cruelly.

Angelica. I am exceedingly sorry for it, and I am ready and willing to ask their pardon. —

Major. It is too late now Madam. Would you have me tell John, that I had

been too hasty, and in the wrong. Would it nor be against my dignity.

Angelica. Your observation is very just; yet give me leave to make you this proposition, which I hope will meet with your approbation. As you sent John away, I will undertake to make it up with him, and as I sent Betzy away, I leave it to you to manage the business with her. What a great satisfaction will it not be to us both to acknowledge our wrong to those we have so grossly injured.

Major (aside). Were I to follow the instinct of my heart, I would embrace the poor old woman with the greatest rapture, but I must go through it, as I have begun (loud). I dare not think on the passion I was in for fear of an other attack of it, for my blood, I find is still much agitated, and if I should, heaven knows, what might be the consequence (walking about with his head cast down). But what is now to be done? I invited six persons to dine with me, and have not one servant in the house

to wait on them. — Abominable and not to be borne. (throws himself on a chair half distracted).

Angelica (approaches). Forgive me this time dear husband, and be not angry! — Why won't you answer me? let me conjure you. She sits herself down near the toilet and weeps bitterly).

Scene XX.

The former. — The CAPTAIN (enters).

Captain. Shall we dine soon? — Oh how comfortably you both sit here, one should suppose you to have been married these 30 years. (the Major beckons to him) By heaven! what do I see? my sister crying — what is the meaning of all those books on the ground? what a confusion! Sir, is this the manner in which you treat my sister? and the first day after your marriage too.

Major. Have a care Sir! consider, that you are in my house.

Angelica (aside). I tremble at his voice.

Captain. You ought to be ashamed of yourself.

Major. Sir! I will not be reprimanded by any one.

Captain. So much the worse, for you seem to me to be more in want of a tutor than of a wife.

Major. what do you mean by such a language Sir?

Angelica (to the Captain) consider dear brother, he is my husband, (to the Major) dear husband! consider he is my brother.

Captain (to *Angelica*). Sister! leave us alone for a moment, that we might. —

Major (speaking loud into the ear of the captain); Do you understand me Sir?

Captain. Perfectly well. whenever you please and at any place you please.

Angelica. Merciful heaven; what do I hear? I hope it is not a challenge.

Major. Make yourself not uneasy. We only intend to talk the business over privately. (to the Captain) I beg of you Sir, to have at least some consideration for my wife,

Captain (very loud). You shall see, that I have a great consideration for your wife.

Angelica. Cruel wretches! You will deceive me and conceal your intention from me, but I can see through it, I perceive Your horrible design too clearly.

Major. Be quiet! make yourself not uneasy; You see we are quite calm.

Angelica. That very calmness perplexes me, and I tremble from top to toe. —

Major (going away takes the Captain by the hand). Captain I expect you.

Captain. I'll be with you presently.

Scene XXI.

ANGELICA and the CAPTAIN.

Angelica. Good heaven! he is gone,
(the Captain will also go) Brother! whither are
you going?

Captain. I have some appointment,
Besides my word. — (*Angelica holds him*)
Pray let me go.

Angelica. No brother, you shall not
leave me.

Captain. The scoundrel — I'll teach
him.

Angelica (*Throws her self at his feet*). Bro-
ther! for heaven's sake stay here; for if
you go, it will be my death; (*weeps*).

Captain. Let me go, he has chal-
lenged me, and we soldiers — honour
— honour —

Angelica. Well if you will be reven-
ged, take revenge on me, here I am at
your feet but I beg of you to spare my
husband, without whom I can not
exist.

Captain (after a pause). I pity you from all my heart and out of regard and brotherly love for you, I shall not keep my promise and stay with you.

Angelica. Dear brother! but you must also promise me faithfully, that it shall not be followed by an other challenge, and that you will not take any notice of the past.

Captain. Rely upon my honor, which, tho' I deviated from the principles of it once, shall be strictly observed towards you.

Angelica (Rises and throws herself on his neck). Oh dear brother you can not imagine, how happy you made me.

Captain. Poor sister!

Angelica. There is something very odd in this house All the disturbances we have had, proceed from anger. I am lively — my husband is passionate and you are as wild as a stag.

Captain. But give me leave to tell

you, that your husband deserves a good lecture.

Angelica. Undoubtedly, for he has a most terrible fault, of which I intend to cure him, but pray keep it a secret.

Captain. You?

Angelica. Yes I, I will take him under my tuition, and in a short time make an other man out of him.

Captain. You?

Angelica. Yes I, and let me tell you, I brought the business pretty far already, had you not come in at the very moment our conversation became most interesting.

Captain (laughs). Ha, ha, ha.

Angelica. Laugh if you will, but what I tell you is a real fact. The only favour I beg of you is not to interfere, otherwise I shall be in danger of seeing my labour unrewarded. —

Scene XXII.

The former, a stable boy.

Stable boy (speaking as loud as he can). Major Lamb desired me to give this letter as privately as possible to Captain spit-fire. —

Captain. Go along you stupid fellow.

Scene XXIII.

ANGELICA. — The CAPTAIN reading the letter.

Angelica. A letter from my husband — What secret can there be in it — I tremble at the thought of it — Pray brother, what does it contain? Let me read it.

Captain. By no means sister.

Angelica. But I insist upon seeing it.

Captain. Why should I distress you more, than you are already distressed.

Angelica (pulls the letter out of his hand) I will read it, I tell you once more!

Captain. And what good will it do you?

Angelica (reads). Dear brother! I had hardly left you, when my conscience upbraided me. To be so passionate is undoubtedly a sad vice, for in my last fit of passion I was on the point of piercing the heart of the very man, to whom I am indebted for what is dearest to me in this world, which is my wife. Why did I give her my hand being so unworthy of hers? — The least I can do is to remove to some distant corner, where in solitude I may be able to break myself of my passion and acquire calmness, of which I am so much in want, and by which means I can not prevent her from enjoying all the days of her life in happiness. As my taking a final leave of you would have been too painful a task for me, I resolved to depart without it. Farewell (she falls on her knees). Pray brother! if he is gone he can not be far, therefore mount

your hunter and ride as fast as you can, and if you overtake him prevail upon him to come back; tell him I shall willingly bear all his faults with patience and humility, tell him, that I shall never utter a syllable to displease or to contradict him. Dear brother! make haste for fear it should be too late.

Captain. I shall be after him in no time, but —

Angelica (pushing him away). Go for heaven's sake, consider, every moment is precious, go dear brother go!

Captain. I'll be after him in the crack of a whip.

Scene XXIV.

ANGELICA, BETZY (enters with a bundle under her arm).

Betzy. As your Ladyship order'd me to quit the house, I take the liberty of waiting on your ladyship to take a final leave.

Angelica. What good woman! are you going to leave me too? Pray, stay here, and forget the wrong, I have done you.

Betzy. No my lady, I could not think on doing such a thing, for I am convinced, that my services are not acceptable, and that in two or three days I should experience the same, for I am now old, which is a great misfortune, but who can help it, heaven would have it so.

Angelica. Let me beg of you Betzy.

Betzy. It is certainly mortifying to leave a place, where one has spent the greatest part of one's life.

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Angelica (aside). How she hurts my feelings.

Betzy. Bounteous heaven! I was born in this place, and expected also to die in it. I served my master's mother 32 years. The whole world loved and adored her, and I would have gone through fire and water to serve her, for she was always so kind and so good natured, that I could not avoid loving her.

Scene XXV.

The former. *JOHN* (enters with his luggage on his shoulders).

Angelica. What's all that? Are you going to leave us too?

John. Yes my lady.

Angelica. And why will you leave us?

John. His honor orderd me to be gone as fast as my old legs can carry me, otherwise he —

Angelica. No good people, You must stay with me.

John. I never thought, that his honor my noble master would have treated me thus.

Angelica. It was certainly wrong of him to have treated you in such a manner, but you know, how passionate he is at times, and when any of those passionate fits come on, he does not know, what he is about.

John. His honor passionate? my lady!

Betzy. What? our noble master passionate. No such a thing, your ladyship is mistaken —

Angelica. Having known him from infancy and lived with him so many years, you must needs have accustomed your self to his temper.

John. Some body must have play'd a trick upon you, in representing him so passionate, as you say. He is quite the contrary, for he always treated us with the

greatest cordiality and affability. In short he is the best natured soul upon earth.

Betzy. And of a most amiable and inoffensive nature.

John. He was from his infancy mild and good tempered, and always taken for a pattern of affability.

Angelica. But did he not beat and treat his uncle's servants ill.

John. He never did such a thing, and would not have done such a thing now if. —

Betzy. Dear me! Who can have told your ladyship such confounded lies?

John. His uncle reprimanded him often for being so mild and so calm with every person.

Angelica. I really do not know what to think of all this.

John. All the time I have been in his service, I never saw him angry, and when any thing was not done to his liking, he used to tell it in such a good natured manner, that it was pleasing to hear him.

Angelica. But you do not tell me, that he broke your arm.

John. He broke my arm? Who for heaven's sake has trumped up such abominable falsehoods.

Betsy. His honour broke my Iohn's arm ha! ha! ha! and in the name of fortune, what else has he done?

John. I tell your ladyship flat and plain, that he never was so before his marriage — and I can not conceive, what evil spirit enter'd these premises.

Angelica. I begin to see through the whole. Good people retire and leave me alone for a while, but do not go away, I beg of you. Your master loves you, and I am sure will be glad to see you, when he returns.

John (to his wife). Well dame; what do you say to it?

Angelica. Be assured, that from this time on, you shall be treated with kindness.

John. We shall go down into the

servants hall and wait till his honour returns, if you permit it. (exeunt)

Angelica. Go, and in the mean while partake of what the house affords

Scene XXVI.

ANGELICA (alone).

Angelica. I find after all, that my husband is a mild and tender hearted man, and all his passion and fury a dissimulation. He expresses in his letter a fear of making my life miserable by staying here, but he is in the wrong, for I am the person, who make his miserable. — It is truly generous of him to accuse himself of a fault, he has not. His letter and his intention to depart from hence are certainly fictitious, but they might have done a great deal of mischief — Can I look into his face after my behaviour? Yes I can, for I never was more certain of his love, than I am at present.

Scene XXVII.

ANGELICA (enters). MAJOR Lamb, CAPTAIN Splitfire,
BETZY and JOHN.

Major (affectionately). My dear Angelica! behold me at your feet.

Angelica. You? no. It is I, who ought to throw myself at your feet! — I know the whole. — You have deceived me, and you pretty gentleman (to her brother) have assisted him.

Major. It is so, as you say. I have deceived you, and I hope, you will also say, that, altho I am punishable, you will forgive me.

Angelica (throwing herself into his arms). My dear husband, my life and soul! You have given me a profitable lesson, whilst I was so silly as to pretend to give you one.

Major. Dear Angelica, they are the best lessons one receives, when one intends to give others one.

Angelica. You play'd your part charmingly. you pretended to be so cholerick and so violent, whilst you are as mild and

as innocent as a lamb. Let us change our dispositions with each other, and you shall see, that I shall excel you, for you only imitated me for a little while, whilst I am determined to be like you all my life time.

Major. My dear generous wife, I am convinced of your good intention and wish you to persevere in it. Experience will teach you, that mildness and good nature are the finest ornaments of your amiable sex, and the safest pledge of matrimonial happiness. (embracing each other).

The curtain drops.

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